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DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month ......

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Mr. Davis on the Rights of Labor. This mystical utterance formed part ceptance, as actually delivered at White Sulphur Springs:

"I have always believed, and my convictions came from the hard school of experience, that, measured by the character of work he does and the cost of living, a man is entitled to full compensation for his services."

The luminous thought burst unexcontained in the address as originally written, but was interpolated by Mr. DAVIS after listening to the Hon. JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS'S five act burlesque.

How did it get in? The matter was cleared up by the publication yesterday of a letter which Mr. Davis had written on Aug. 15 to Mr. I. V. JOHNSON of Roanoke denying certain published statements that he was "hostile to the laboring class." We put in parallel columns parts of the letter to Mr. Johnson and parts of the passage added last Wednesday to his previously prepared speech of acceptance:

THE SPEECH. THE LETTER "For years I worked "For many years I worked in the ranks as a in the ranks as a wage wage earner, and I know earner, and I know what what it is to earn my liv- it is to earn my living in ing by the sweat of my the sweat of my brow. "I have always be

"I have always be- lieved, and my conviclieved, and my convic- tions came from the tion came from the hard hard school of expeschool of experience, rience, that, measured that, measured by the by the character of work character of the work he he does and the cost of does and the cost of liv- living, a man is entitled ing, every man is entitled to full compensation for to full compensation for his services."

It thus becomes evident that the dazed condition of mind in which the Hon. JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS'S sustained effort of humor left the venerable candidate is responsible for the interpolation in the speech of acceptance of parts of a private letter written or dictated by Mr. DAVIS only twenty-four hours before.

But what is "full compensation," and who is to decide upon the fulness thereof? And if a man is entitled to full compensation for his services, is it likewise Mr. DAVIS'S conviction, acquired in the hard school of experience, that a man is entitled to full liberty of contract in the disposition of his labor, whenever, wherever and to whomsoever he pleases to sell the same?

An opinion on this latter question would have been worth having from the candidate for Vice-President. If he had uttered such an opinion, there might PARKER'S telegram, "Congratulations on your excellent speech of acceptance."

The Porto Rican Argument for a Tariff on Coffee.

Porto Rican papers, such as the Boletin Mercantil of San Juan, El Aguila of Ponce, and sundry others, flatly repudiate the views of THE SUN regarding the imposition of a tariff on coffee by which the Porto Rican berry would be so protected in the United States market that a profitable outlet would be assured here for all that the island can raise. But it is gratifying to note that some of them at least realize that even our criticism of proposed solutions of Porto Rican difficulties is an honest effort in their behalf.

The Boletin Mercantil, in its issue of July 23, says, as translated:

"We acknowledge that THE SUN is the only the affairs of Porto Rico, and that its noble and ing [literally, of conjuring or exorcising] the total ruin of Porto Rico is worthy of the gratitude of our people. It is of little consequence that our opinions differ if THE SUN awakens the citizens of the have assumed in relation to this unhappy colony."

But it is apparent that they can see

only one way in which those duties can be properly fulfilled, namely, by the imposition on coffee from all other countries of a duty which will at least fairly protect the Porto Rican berry. From their point of view, the logic of some of their arguments cannot be denied, nor does it seem possible to deny the justice of their claims. Their arguments and claims may be summarized as follows: Porto Rico is in dire need. Her people are impoverished and hungry; many are in rags and some are starving. Their condition is due to no fault of their own. Their prosperity depends chiefly upon their ability to market profitably their erop of coffee, the chief product of the island, upon which the majority of the islanders are dependent. During the Spanish régime they sold their coffee in Europe at remunerative prices, and the people of the island were reasonably prosperous and contented. As a matter of fact, and absolutely, they were neither; but there is only too much reason for belief that, economically, they were in a better state than they

From the last collection of Porto Rican papers which has reached us, we select two arguments which are at least entitled to American consideration. El

Aguila of Ponce says: coffee in a way which seems to imply that the Porto Ricans are asking a favor, and this is not so; we demand it as a right and nothing more. Our coffee

it has the same right to protection under the Dingley tariff as have other American products. There is no reason whatever why one Porto Rican product should be regarded as American while others are

The logic of this, from the Porto Rican point of view, must be admitted. They are unable to see just why their minor products, such as sugar, fruit and tobacco, should be protected, while their major product, coffee, enjoys no such privilege. We trust that they will not think us ungracious in saying that the American tariff is framed, primarily, in the interest of the eighty million people who live on the mainland rather than in the interest of the one million who live in a sun-kissed gem of an island on the border of the Caribbean ocean.

Yet this may be supplemented by a proposition made by the Boletin Mercantil, which seems to concede the force of THE SUN'S argument of an injustice in imposing a duty on hundreds of millions of pounds of coffee of the grade used by the great mass of our people, for the sake of giving protection to a few millions of pounds of a more expensive of Mr. HENRY G. DAVIS's speech of ac- and much superior article. The Boletin asks whether it would be too much for Porto Rico to ask for the imposition of a duty only on such grades of coffee as come into competition with her product, leaving the cheaper and inferior grades, as they now are, on the free list.

If the Porto Ricans will advance a few more arguments of that calibre they will pectedly upon the country. It was not stand a much better chance of securing a hearing in this country. Meanwhile the Department of Agriculture, which is constantly engaged in such work, may well institute an investigation of the comparative merit and value of Porto Rican coffee. If one pound of that, worth say 25 cents, will make an equal or a greater quantity of liquid coffee of a quality equal or superior to that which would result from the use of two pounds of Rio, worth say 121/2 cents a pound, let us have official assurance of the fact. The Porto Ricans claim that one pound of their coffee is equivalent to four pounds of Rio or two pounds of that gate and report.

## A New Chance for Home Rule.

Just as most of the British Liberals are revealing a resolve to fight mainly, if not exclusively, under the banner of free trade, and to drop the subject of home rule for Ireland in their next appeal to the constituencies, there comes once more an indication, as in the last half of 1885, that the wish of the Irish people for self-government may gain substantial, if not nominal, fulfilment at the hands of the Conservatives.

The Daily Telegraph, which will be recognized as a trustworthy mouthpiece of many Unionists, lately made in an editorial article the following sugges tive statement:

"There is a large and growing number of poll ticians who, while professing devotion to the Union, put fiscal reform before Unionism. There is an unsuspectedly large number of Tories whose sym pathy with home rule was scotched but not absolutely killed by the methods adopted by various national leagues to obtain it. If Ireland continues as free from lawlessness and outrage-mongering in the future as she is at present, these scotched Tory home rulers may again raise their heads."

The Unionists who care more for fiscal

reform, or, in other words, for protectionism, than they do for the union between Great Britain and Ireland are, of course, the followers of Mr. CHAMBER-LAIN. They already constitute the preponderant element in the Unionist ranks, although they have thus far re frained from asserting their ascendency by compelling Mr. Balfour to accept their programme, they will undoubtedly assume control of the Unionist party when it becomes a minority, as it is expected to do in the next House of Commons. Should Mr. CHAMBERLAIN see fit, after the next general election, to enter into a coalition with the Irish Nationalists, he doubtless would be able to make his party swallow the draught which Lord CARNARVON and Lord RAN-DOLPH CHURCHILL pressed in vain on the Conservatives nineteen years ago.

Whether such a step will be taken by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN depends, in all likelihood, on the composition of the next House of Commons. We presume that at heart he is as much opposed as he ever has been to any material concessions to the Irish demand for Home Rule, and if he valued a reputation for consistency he would feel himself estopped North American paper which concerns itself with from making any by his repeated and emphatic denunciations of the project. No British statesman, however, not even Sir ROBERT PEEL or Mr. GLADSTONE, has evinced more contempt for consistency than has the Member for West Birmingham, who from a rabid free trader has across the Western Ocean. Already the developed into the protectionist champion. The paramount object of his life is now to embody his preferential policy in legislation; and he must want to gratify his desire as speedily as possible, for he knows that he cannot look forward to many years of intellectual vigor. Some of his followers profess not to expect the fulfilment of their hopes until the next Parliament but one shall have assembled. It is scarcely credible, however, that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, at his age, will submit to such delay, if he can possibly avoid it. If he can avert the postponement of his plan by propitiating | noted that it cherishes that spirit of adthe Irish Nationalists, he is scarcely

likely to let the opportunity slip. Now, it is believed by almost all observers of the actual political situation in Great Britain that the outcome of the and to win in a contest which carries next general election will be to give once more the balance of power in the House of Commons to the eighty-three Nationalist members. Few if any Unionists doubt that the Liberals, hoisting the free trade flag, will beat their party at the ballot box; but few even of the most only when they are mere racing shells. sanguine Liberals imagine that their A dash across the Atlantic is certainly victory will be any more decisive than not an undertaking for a skinned-out that which Mr. GLADSTONE gained in December, 1885. Then the Liberals, it may be remembered, secured almost exactly the same number of seats as was acquired by the Conservatives and Nationalists combined. Under the circumstances, Mr. GLADSTONE could not have carried on the Government without the aid of the Irish party. Recognizing the fact, he entered into the combination

reason to think, in view of his attitude at the general election then just ended and during the preceding twelvemonth, that the Irish leader would have preferred to cooperate with the Conservatives. But they, under Lord SALISBURY'S leadership, repelled the suggestions of Lord CARNARVON and Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL, and refused to bid against the Liberals for the support of the Home

Rulers. The chances are that Mr. CHAMBER-LAIN will be much more sorely tempted than was Lord SALISBURY to accept assistance from the Home Rulers. In 1885-86 a Conservative-Nationalist coalition would have been unworkable, because it could have just managed to divide evenly the House of Commons. It is only, however, optimistic Liberals who fancy that their party will be as successful on the next appeal to the ballot box as Mr. GLADSTONE was nineteen years ago. It is much more probable that their victory will be limited to gaining from fifty to sixty seats from their opponents. In that event they would have a small plurality over the Conservatives, but neither of the two great parties would be able to form a Government without Nationalist cooperation.

If, then, the two great parties are likely to bid against each other for the support of the Home Rulers in the next House of Commons, which bid is likely to be accepted? It is obvious that the Unionists would have a great advantage over the Liberals in one particular, namely, that they would be able to make their promise good. The fate of the second Home Rule bill may be said to have proved that the Liberals can never carry a proposal to give the Irish people any large installment of local self-government through the House of Lords. On the other hand, the hereditary legislators will sanction almost any measure that comes to them stamped with the approval of the Unionists in the House of Commons. It may be that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S offer would not be, on its face, so alluring as that made by his Liberal competitor, but the question sold as Mocha. Let Dr. WILEY investi- for Nationalists to answer would be whether they would not prefer a bird in the hand to two in the bush.

## Holding Up Tom's Hands.

The Hon. Tom TAGGART'S Indianapolis Sentinel, the official mouthpiece of the Democratio national committee, prints a beautiful speech, two and a quarter columns long, made by the Hon. JOHN W. KEALING, chairman of the Marion county Democratic convention. Marion county is the site of Mr. TAGGART and Indianapolis. Mr. KEALING paints a full-length portrait of the distinguished Indiana leader and strategist, under whose direction the Democratic campaign is going on so neatly and quietly that his masterly methods have even deceived Democrats who don't know how much deadlier mines are than the mere pop and screech of ostentatious bombardment. Let us look at the chief and do him honor:

"An honored and favored son of Indiana, a resident of our city, a brother in arms, if you please, has been selected as chairman of the national coinmittee; step by step he has worked his way from the ranks to the leadership of his party; with untiring devotion he has labored constantly for his party and its principles, he has never faltered in the faith or halted by the wayside, and victory has followed in his path. The Democracy of Indiana commended him to the Democracy of the nation as an organizer of superb ability, as a leader of keen discernment and sound discretion, qualified in the highest degree to discharge the arduous duties of the national chairmanship; they accepted him at our word; even now we are told they have discovered his magnetism and its influences upon men, are delighted with his selection and firmly convinced that no mistake has been made."

Mr. TAGGART himself is firmly convinced. Nobody kicks but a squeamish Mugwump or two. Indiana has given TAGGART to the Democracy. The Democracy expects Indiana to do her duty:

"The eyes of the State and nation are upon us; much is expected of us, much is to be done; let us not mar the good record already made, or deviate from the high standard already set for us. Let us demonstrate that the confidence and faith shown in us has not been misplaced; let us then with one accord and with our old-time vigor and enthusiasm help to hold up the hands of TROMAS TAGGART."

The right spirit breathes from these words. Hold up Tom's hands-and pull

Across Sea for Kaiser's Cup.

At last the Kaiser has invaded America. It has long been feared that he would be a challenger for the America's Cup, but that danger, it seems, is averted for the present. The Kaiser has defeated Sir THOMAS LIPTON, not in capturing a cup, but in giving one. This cup is to be the emblem of victory in a race eastward owners of several of the big two-stickers have signified their intention of starting their craft in this tussle, and it is expected that some British and German yachts will also compete. Perhaps the Kaiser will enter the Meteor. But without his own spectacular figure at the helm she would carry only a faint, memorial

Long distance yacht racing, as we have on previous occasions pointed out, admits of too many uncertainties to be regarded as a true test of the comparative speed of yachts. But we have also venture to which the mastery of man over the seas is chiefly to be credited. To brave the dangers of the trackless waste in a pleasure craft is surely inspiring, hazard with it from one end to the other

is a fine thing. There is still another matter worth considering. The series of contests for the America's Cup has served to foster a belief that American yachts are swift marine anomaly, a huge tin cance with a stovepipe for a mast. The winner in such a race must be not only speedy, but

also sound. If half a dozen American yachts start, six of them will cross the finish line. One of those six will probably be the winner. The demonstration will be encouraging for all believers in the ability of American designers to turn out seagoing yachts with Mr. PARNELL which resulted in the | that can sail fast. Therefore bring on is an American product, as is our sugar, and as such first Home Rule bill. There is good your British and German transatlantio

racers. It's a long way over and a long way back, but our yachtsmen will courteously show the visitors the way home.

The Basis of Harmony.

Under the leadership of that earnest Parker enthusiast Mr. BRYAN, the Democrats and Populists of Nebraska have 'divvied" the nominations on a Fusion State ticket. Both Populists and Democrats keep an electoral ticket in the field, so that there may be no doubt that ROOSEVELT will carry the State. Thus they can give their undivided attention to the high problem, which is stated, rudely but fairly, by a Republican organ in their State, the Verdigre Citizen:

" It isn't a question of principle any more with the Democrats of Nebraska. The only question to be determined is. How the h- are we going to get the offices?"

The offices are more than a question of principle. They are a principle; that is, a fundamental tenet of politicians; and so they have been since politics began. This year they may well be more than a principle, more than a cause, an object and a hope.

It is clear that political platforms are not to be taken seriously. With perfect gravity the Democracy kicks away its holiest beliefs of 1896 and 1900. In effect it says to the voters, "Oh, forget it." The offices are the one fount of peace and basis of harmony. About the trusts and the Philippines

and such small deer there is much difference of opinion among Democrats. The "admirable" platform is admirably vague in parts. The candidate's utterances are already the subject of perplexity and commentary. There is one clear issue which can prevent doubt and confusion and discord.

Pipe all hands for that noble issue, so coarsely put by the Verdigre Citizen: "How the h--- are we going to get the offices?"

THE SUN cannot adapt itself to the idea that a waterway through the State is a good thing for commerce.—Buffalo Commercial. But what a magnificent thing for the grocery business!

A student of political history asks:

"Why do you say this morning that Governor Hill 'promptly' appointed Surrogate-Chairman PARKER to the judicial vacancy caused by the deat of Judge WESTBROOM? You quote at the same time the Herald's criticism of Hill for indecently delaying that appointment."

Promptly after the election; not promptly after the occurrence of the vacancy. Mr. PARKER completed his labors as Surrogate-Chairman on election day, Nov. 3. On Nov. 11. Governor HILL appointed him as a Justice of the Supreme Court. "It is generally announced the New York understood. Times, "that his promotion is a reward for successfully managing the Democratic machine this fall."

It's only justice to say that the Hon. THOMAS H. TIBBLES is the most Roman and impressive of the candidates for Vice-President; and that the Hon. TOM WATSON is as full of ginger as they make 'em. The Herald beats the gong and yells that

"New York Democrats must wake up!" That's a matter of opinion. The Hon. Par McCarren, for example, probably believes that certain New York Democrats, notably the Hon. CHARLES F. MURPHY, must shut

Mr. Warson, his thin kindly face lighted up with a smile.-World. Lighted from above. Mr. WATSON has good red pigment in his hair as in his

Welcome to an old friend, the Hon. Er-VING WINSLOW of the Anti-Imperialist League! From the caves of oblivion he comes up spouting. His heart beats fiercely oines. With all his old engaging simplicity he makes himself a sort of official interpreter of Judge PARKER'S Orphic sayings. He is a wonder and a joy. He came over so to speak, in the Mayflower. He has a mighty influence in Kilby street. We hear that he has promised Judge PARKER the solid Maeterlinck vote in Boston.

"TIM" WOODRUFF will be the candidate for Gov-rnor and he will be elected. -Mr. MICHAEL J. DADY. We think not.

The Factional Troubles in the Nineteenth TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your paper always stood for purity and fair representation in politics, and has ever been first to denounce the tricks of those who maintain their claims to bossism after defeat at the polls.

The struggle that is strengthening the Republi-can hosts in the Nineteenth Assembly district is one of local political rights, one that triumphed in Mr. Quigg's defeat on several occasions and regained Republican ascendancy here after Mr. Quigg's elimination from the demoralization brought t by his affiliations and management.

Mr. Gilman's leadership is opposed by those who made him leader, for the reason of his adherence and subservience to Mr. Quigg and the breaking of his pledges not to support Mr. Quigg in any shape

What claim has Mr. Quigg to dominate politic affairs in this district or to represent this district at Chicago or anywhere else? Certainly there was no crisis in Mr. Roosevelt's candidacy, even if Mr. Quigg could be accused of any anxiety in that matter, to need his peculiar tactics to help in any way to consummate Mr. Roosevelt's nomination, or in any way to add to the certainty and brilliancy of it, which was an accomplished fact by the d sire of all Republicans and many outside the Re-publican ranks. His nomination was the ratifying of the will of his party and the indorsement of Republican principles as administered by him and believed in by us. Governor Odell advised our committee to defeat

Mr. Gilman at the coming primary election if we were opposed to his affiliations. We certainly are, and that we propose to do, or continue the fight un

There will be no Republican votes lost in this district, but many gained through this canvass. As is well understood, no change in party management takes place until after the Presidential election. Party fights mean party strength and good nom inations, when the side wins that especially desir such result. We trust you for fair treatment and to aid us in

having voters examine into the merits of this controversy.

H. W. FOOTE. NEW YORK, Aug. 19.

England's Railroad Crossings. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A corre pondent of your valued paper recently said that England "never allows a grade crossing to be without compelling the railroad to build a bridge

This is not correct. There are throughout Eng land many grade crossings, but at each crossing there are gates, with watchmen, who are there as every train goes by. Last summer I travelled a good deal over Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and other counties, both by train and in vehicles over the public roads, and encountered many grade crossings, not merely at stations, but also miles Everybody will admit that grade crossings in any country are a source of accidents, and mor

perhaps in this country than anywhere else. But we must not give England credit for a measure of progress that she has not earned. R. M. TUTTLE. MANDAN, N. D., Aug. 16. The Flag as a Cancelling Stamp.

strikes me unpleasantly to see the flag of the country used as a cancelling stamp.

There seems something rather incongruous and unfitting in obliterating the features of Washington and Franklin with a diagram of the flag of the NEUTRALITY.

Russia's Invasion of Our Rights of Com

merce Not to Be Telerated. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The people of the United States have been awaiting with some impatience the action of our State Department in reference to the recent outrages perpetrated upon American commerce by the Russian navy, and they wil receive with great satisfaction the informa tion of Mr. Hay's emphatic protest to the

Russian Government. The action of that Government in its reckless and defiant disregard of the rights of neutral nations is only an illustration of the truth that "Whom the gods wish to destroy they first make mad." In her present condition Russia is sorely in need of friends, yet she seems bent upon making enemies of all the great Powers. Sinking neutral ships, confiscating neutral cargoes obbing neutral mails, violating neutra harbors, she seems to be running amuck against the civilization of the world. That such a course will be tolerated by other nations is hardly probable, that it will be endured by the United States is impossible.

As yet Russia's offences against the United States have been confined to the seizure or destruction of American cargoes shipped to neutral ports or to private in dividuals in unblockaded Japanese ports but this involves the right of this country to engage in commerce with the outside world. That our Government will allow Russia to obstruct this right is not to be supposed for a moment. In our infancy we went to war with both England and France to maintain it, and now that we have grown to a nation of 80,000,000 people we shall hardly submit to the spoliation o our commerce by Russia.

The right of neutral nations to enjoy their ordinary commerce without interruption from belligerents is the most essential principle of international law. In 1758 Vattel thus stated it:

That the commerce of nations may subsist in a great a degree of freedom as is consistent with the laws of war there are certain rules to be observed, on which Europe seems to be generally agreed. on which Europe seems to be generally to the first is, carefully to distinguish ordinary good which have no relation to war from those that are peculiarly subservient to it. Neutral nations should enjoy perfect liberty to trade in the former; the belligerent Powers cannot with any reason refuse ! or prevent the importation of such goods into the enemy's country: the care of their own safety, the necessity of self-defence, does not authorize them to do it, since these things will not render the enemy a stop to this trade would be a violation of the rights of neutral nations, a flagrant injury to them.

In 1793, during the war between revolu tionary France and Great Britain, the latter claimed the right to seize our vessels carry ing provisions to France. Our Govern ment indignantly repudiated this claim am Mr. Jederson, then Secretary of State rote to our Minister in England: Reason and right have established that whe

two nations go to war those who choose to live it peace retain their natural right to pursue their agriculture, manufactures and other ordinary vocations, to carry the produce of their industry for exchange to all nations, belligerent or neutral as usual; to so and come freely without injury o olestation, and in short that the war among others tion on their natural rights has been submitted by nations at peace, that is to say, that of not fur nishing to either party implements merely of was for the annoyance of the other, nor anything what ever to a place blockaded by the enemy. The state of war, then, existing between Great Britain and France furnishes no legitimate right to either to interrupt the agriculture of the United States or the peaceable exchange of its produce with all nations, and consequently the assumption of it will be as lawful hereafter as now, in peace as in war. We see then a practice begun to which no time, no circumstances prescribe any limit, and which strikes at the root of our agriculture, that branch of industry which gives food, clothing and comfort to the great mass of the inhabitants of these States. If any nation whatever has a right to shut up to our produce all the ports of the earth xcept her own and those of her friends she may shut up these also, and so confine us within our own limits. No nation can subscribe to such preensions: no nation can agree, at the mere will or suspended and its citizens reduced to idleness and

As stated by Mr. Jefferson, the only exof a belligerent, and, second, articles consigned to a blockaded port. The first are known as contraband-from contra, against and bandum, mediæval Latin for a proclamation-so called because at the beginning of a war the belligerents usually issue proclamation forbidding their shipment upon penalty of seizure and confiscation. and generally defining what articles will be considered contraband.

In the proclamation issued by the Rusdan Government not only articles generally and principally used for warlike purposes are enumerated, but also a great many other articles which are not neces sarily or even generally used for such pur-poses, such as "rice," "foodstuffs," "every kind of fuel, such as coal, naphtha, spirits,

Under this proclamation the Russi war vessels have seized vessels carrying American cargoes of flour and other innoent merchandise. In the case of the Arabia a large quantity of American flour was seized and has been confiscated by the Admiralty Court at Vladivostok, because t was consigned to merchants in Japanese ports. The mere fact that this flour was so consigned affords no ground for its condemnation. Russia has made no pretex of blockading any Japanese port, its fleets peing shut up in its own ports and utterly incapable of executing a blockade of the enemy. Neutrals therefore have a perfect right to ship any articles that are not conraband to any Japanese port, and if consigned to a private individual the presumption is that it is intended for commercial purposes and not for military use.

Under these circumstances our Govern ment will certainly demand indemnity for this flour, unless it is clearly established that it was intended for the use of the Japanese army or navy, and not for the use of the peaceful inhabitants. International law recognizes but one way by which one bel ligerent may starve out another, and that is by blockade or siege. In the absence of these neutrals have a perfect right to furnish anything they please for the suste nance and comfort of their customers in the ports of a belligerent.

Ever since its existence the United States has been feeding belligerents in all parts of the world and furnishing them clothing and manufactures of all kinds and it will not now refuse to supply the people of Japan with everything they may require that is not contraband of war.

The American people are of the same opinion now as to what constitutes "con traband" as they were when they negotiated their first treaty, that of "Amity and Comnerce" with France in 1778. Article XXIV of that treaty defined contraband to con sist only of munitions of war, and expressly excluded from its meaning "all provisions which serve for the nourishment of mankind and the sustenance of life \* \* \* so that they may be transported and carried in the freest manner by the subjects of both confederates, even to places belonging to an enemy, such towns or places being only excepted as are at the time besieged, blocked

up or invested." The American doctrine thus set forth in that treaty has been approved by the leading publicists of all nations as the true

THE AMERICAN DOCTRINE OF interpretation of the law of contraband as known to international jurisprudence and although it has been frequently violated by different beligerents in their own interests, it is now generally recognized as the only interpretation consistent with

humanity and civilization. J. S. TUCKER. WASHINGTON, Aug. 19.

IDEAS OF THE VOTERS. Reaction of Public Sentiment About the

Great Graft Canal. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: That is Hammer away at the thousand-ton canal, and probably some day the taxpayers of New York will have occasion to thank THE SUN for some saving enlightenment.

A part of the support given this measure by the voters of New York city was of the blind, unthinking variety, but in my humble opinion most of it was the result of a rank political deal

NEW YORK, Aug. 19.

Judge Parker's Alleged Contribution to the Bryan Campaign Fund.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Here is an easy one for THE SUN to answer. When 'Cursed" David was making his preliminary canvass for Parker he told the Bryan cohorts that in the campaign of 1896 Parker contributed \$2,500 to the Bryan cause. Was that contribution due to his faith in the free silver doctrine, or did he have in mind his candi dacy for the nomination for Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals in 1897, and hand in his sole motive, that will account for his vote in 1900. If the nomination in the distance was the inspiring cause, did he not place selfand expediency above principle? If both faith and ambition prompted the contribution, which weighed the heavier with the Judge? And if he was impelled by neither motive, why did he lend his name and money to Bryan's fiscal fanaticism and income tax

If THE SUN will not undertake to answe my queries, I invoke the Judge's aid. And if he will enlighten me, I should like the answers right off the reel, without any consultation with David—just "cut him out," as was done in the case of the telegram to the convention. NEW YORK, Aug. 19.

An Average Intelligence Puzzled by Mr James C. Carter.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Being citizen of only average intelligence and wishing to do the right thing by every one, I come to you for help.

Can you tell me what Mr. James C. Carter

means when he says in his letter to Mr. Pat-terson: "Bring together the educated young men who are inclined toward Democration principles, and urge them to individual soion in support of these principles"?
What are Democratic principles? I want

to know. Are they expressed in the St. Louis platform? Judge Parker and Mr. Davis each expresses himself as delighted with this admirable bundle of wood; but to me, always taking into consideration the fact that I have only average intelligence, there is no trace of Democratic principles, as I understand the meaning of the word, in anything Democracy has said or done in the past eight years.

The principles as expounded by the leaders of this once great party can be summed up in these words: "I believe in this thing, that thing and the other thing: by which I mean believe in the other thing, that thing and this thing."

Where, according to Mr. Carter, are we holding foreign peoples in permanent subjection Are not the peoples of Porto Rico and the Philippines now enjoying as much liberty as the peoples residing in the States, and have they not as much freedom of action, under the law, as we have on this side of the world? Is there under the Government of the United States to-day anything that can be designated by the word imperialism there is not, what do the Democratic leaders mean when they preach against imperialism?

Are not our army and navy composed o and did not this great army melt away, like to disband? Have not the officers in these two branches

of the service shown the world that before and above everything else they are American and patriots? As an American I claim that the leaders of the so-called Democratic party of to-day in-

sult every American soldier and sailor when they dish up as food for thinking American citizens this silly talk of imperialism

merican ideas and preach the gospel of true Democracy? As I heard a level headed workman declare the other day, after discussing the mater with his friends, on a ferryboat; "The upshot of the whole thing is just this: Much as I would like to get back to the Democratic party, I can't do it. There is no Democratic party, as I understand it, in existence to-day. Parker may be a good man, and no doubt is: but the men behind Parker and the platform he stands on can't deceive any citizen who loves his country. No, boys, the party needs another damned good thrashing before it is safe to trust it with power."

Thousands of good Democrats, all over the country, feel just that way and will act ac-AN AMERICAN. LONG ISLAND CITY, Aug. 19.

The Canal in Politics. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Bully for THE SUN in denouncing the "barge canal" windle. It's only a cover for the biggest graft the State has ever seen. Give us another chance to vote on this monstrosity. The people were deceived and do not believe there was an honest count.

Lord help us when the canal gets well established as a factor in politics. canal has ruined more political parties than any other influence. Let the barge canal loose, and where shall we be? will never be built, but the \$101,000,000 will be spent or stolen. SYRACUSE, Aug. 18.

How Icebergs Capeize. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: An answer to A. W. Rice's question, What makes icebergs turn turtle? is very simple and I am glad to enlighten

An iceberg naturally floats two-thirds sub-merged unless there are boulders or sand im-bedded in the base. These, of course, make it loat somewhat lower. The warm currents that flow through the ocean melt the bottoms of these ice mountains and, re-leasing the rocks and sand, tend to make them top-

heavy.

Sometimes the warm water eats large cavities in the leebergs below the waterline, completely honeycombing the submerged part.

When such is the case a heavy sea or a sharp gale of wind is all that is necessary to make them C. G. S.

Surprising Find Under a South Carolina Home. From the Columbia State The constables found two five gallon kegs of fine old corn yesterday underneath Frank Andrews's house, 1220 Gadsden street. The kegs

showed evidence of having once been buried in the

earth. The folks at home showed great surprise and some wonder when their attention was called to the discovered treasure. Retort Courteous.

Cholly-The President advocates a Big Stick. Stella-Why, what possible use can be have for

Mid pay streaks and promises though we may roam. Be they ever so bum, there's no place like Nome. A storm from the skies seems to follow us there Which, seek through the West, is ne'er met with

> Nome, Nome, sweet, sleet Nome! There's no place like Nome!

Exiled from Alaska, gold dazzles in vain. Oh, give me my sluice box and tundra again. The dogs trailing sadly that came at my call. Give me them and that tin claim, dearer than all

> Nome, Nome, sweet, slick Nome! There's no placers like Nome.

ENGLISH ABBOT HERE. edictines in That Countr

The Right Rev. Abbot Francis Aldan Gasquet, abbot president of the English Benedictines, arrived on the Oceanic yesterday, accompanied by Mgr. Nugent of Idverpool and the Rev. M. J. O'Callaghan, rector of St. Michael's Church, Manchester, Eng-

"This is my first visit to America," said the abbot to a SUN reporter, "and I am here to make a thorough study of the institutions. both public and private, which are devoted to education. I will especially study the Catholic seminaries in the country and then the colleges and convents. I will be here three months, during which time I shall travel over much of the United States and Canada. I will go as far West as Omaha,

Canada. I will go as far West as Omaha, St. Louis and St. Paul.

"We start in the morning for the summer school at Cliff Haven, on Lake Champlain, going from here all the way by boat. We will stop over Sunday at Lake George and thence proceed through Lake Champlain to the summer school grounds. I am very anxious to see the place and study its methods. We shall stay at the school until Thursday and then pay a flying visit to Montreal, Quebec and Toronto. From Toronto we hope to make Buffalo and the steamer for Duluth by the Mondayfollowing, reaching St. Paul, Minn., by Sept. 15. We will be guests of Archbishop Ireland while in the Northwest. On Sept. 19 I will preach at a retreat

of Archbishop Ireland while in the Northwest. On Sept. 19 I will preach at a retreat to the seminarians at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary, just outside of St. Paul.

"We hope to spend at least ten days at the fair in St. Louis and then a few days in Chicago, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Detroit, Cleveland and Cincinnati. I will lecture at the University of Notre Dame and also talk to the ladies at the Convent of St. Mary's in the Woods, at South Bend. After this itinerary I will go to Washington, as the guest of Mgr. O'Connell, rector of the university, and deliver a series of historical lectures to the students, and I hope to get back to New York city with lots of American impressions by the middle of November."

MAYOR TO START FIRST TRAIN. Other Subway Opening Plans of the Aldermen-Date Still Uncertain.

The Aldermen's committee on the celebration of the subway opening outlined its plans for the celebration yesterday to President Orr and other members of the Rapid Transit Commission. The plans. which were heartily approved by the Commissioners, provide for day and night celebrations both in Manhattan and The Bronx. The opening day will be a municipal holiday.

A platform to accommodate 1,000 guests is to be erected in City Hall Park. The speakers will probably be Mayor McClellan, a representative of the Rapid Transit Coma representative of the Rapid Transit Commission, a representative of the Chamber of Commerce, August Belmont of the Interborough Construction Company and Bishop Potter. After the speaking, as many of the guests as can be accommodated will board a subway train, which is to be started by Mayor McClellan, and ride to Harlem. The station platforms along the way will be open so that folks may see the first public train go through. The platforms, Contractor McDonald estimates, will hold \$5.000 persons.

85,000 persons.

There is also to be speaking in The Bronx The City Hall and the Borough Hall are to be decorated and there will be fireworks in both places in the evening.

President Orr said that he did not think the celebration should be held before the subway is ready for actual use. Alderman

subway is ready for actual use. Alderman Richter, chairman of the committee, replied that Mr. Belmont, because of the labor troubles, could not tell exactly when the road would be ready.

The road is to be operated at full train service but with empty cars for six weeks before passengers are carried, so that the trainmen may become thoroughly familiar with the system and the signals.

CHELSEA PARK.

A Counter Statement In Regard to the

Proposed Playground. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If your correspondent "H," who under date of Aug. 17 addressed THE SUN in reference to the proposed Chelsea Park, had attended the meeting before the local board of the Chelsea district on Thursday last he would have heard advanced before that board many reasons why the people of that part of the West Side demand a park or playground for their that the board immediately recommende the adoption of the site suggested for the purpose proposed. A very conservative estimate puts the population of the Chelsea district to-day at 130,000, 90 per cent. of whem are native born. The Chelsea district runs from Nineteenth street to Forty-sixth street. Seventh avenue to the North River, not, as

stated by your correspondent, from Twentieth street to Forty-third street.

There is no park between Leroy street on the south and Fifty-first street on the north; no recreation pier between Morton street and Fifty-fourth street. The public school buildings are among the oldest in the city. There is not a public bath for the people of the Chelsea district, who are only now urging their claim to some recognision. Borough President Ahearn, chairman of the local board, publicly stated that this application was one of the first of its kind that had come to his department from the resident people of the locality for which the improvement was wanted, and not from philanthropic organizations, which are continually urging improvements for the good of the city, at the city's expense. The population of the district certainly warrants some public improvement of the kind suggested, and the fact that the Pennsylvania Hailroad has demolished three blocks in the neighborhood is no reason why the people who remain should be deprived of the benefits which a park would bring, nor does your correspondent indicate on what he bases his opinion that "later on" the city can acquire under advantageous terms the Central freight vard at Thirtieth street. As a matter of adistrict that the city can acquire for less money than the site suggested between Twenty-seventh and Twenty-eight streets. The city already owns about 200 feet, in addition to a large public school.

It is proposed that this school remain undisturbed, and in addition there might be added a Carnegie library and a public bath, which would make a noteworthy group and a beneficial combination for the people's mental and physical wellbeing.

Your correspondent's fear that there may be some political significance to the proposed in the Chelsea district, to which they have been working the hardest to bring about what the gratitude of all respectable men and women on the West Side.

Men who have been working the hardest to bring about what the people have demanded have kept them stated by your correspondent, from Twentieth street to Forty-third street. There is no park between Leroy street

Quail and Rabbits Drowned in the West From the Kansas City Journal.

C. J. Schmelzer says he has reports from his agents in the field that there will be no rabbits and but row quali this year.

"Our travelling men write us," said Mr. Schmelers, yesterday, "that the incessant rains and floods through this region have drowned out all rabbits and have killed the young qualt which had not the power to fig. The loss will fall on the hunter. but more seriously upon the poor people and the

The Supreme Genius of Abbreviation. From the Providence Journ il.

In the Boston Advertiser's strange system of ab-breviations "Emp. Wm.," however lacking in enphony, is at least intelligible. can mean nothing but Point Arthur; and where